

THE TIMES.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1890.

VIRGINIA SCHOOL REPORT.

The nineteenth annual report of the Su-
perintendent of Public Instruction will be
found to contain many facts and observa-
tions of unusual interest. The indications
of progress in the cause of public education
in this State, as disclosed by this report,
are on the whole, much more satisfac-
tory than would have been thought probable
when the amount of the appropriations to
this object was taken into consideration;
these appropriations, however, having been
as liberal as the financial condition of Vir-
ginia would justify.

The total expenditures on the public
schools for the current year 1888-'89 were
\$1,624,898.92, exceeding the expenditures of
the last school year by \$62,452.22. The re-
venue still due the schools on account of
arrears, including the instalment for Jan-
uary 1, 1890, is \$24,563.92. The usefulness
of the public school system has necessarily
depended upon the amount of money avail-
able for school purposes; and, while the
legislation on the part of the General As-
sembly has been uniformly friendly, much
still remains to be done, by which valuable
improvements can be made in the system.

Additional schools judiciously located,
the late Superintendent remarks in the
report, "would reach children not now in
school, and thus increase the general aver-
age attendance; better teachers' salaries
would command better qualifications;
and longer average school term would give
opportunity for more thorough and satis-
factory work. But without a larger school
fund a forward movement in any one of
these directions is impracticable, unless
there be a corresponding backward move-
ment in one or both of the others."

The school population of Virginia is esti-
mated to be 610,371, the number of pupils in
daily average attendance being 105,525,
which shows that not quite one in three of
the children of school age attend the public
schools. The total enrolment of pupils
runs up as high as 239,945, leaving 14,423
as the measure of irregular attendance,
this being the difference between the gen-
eral enrolment and the daily average at-
tendance.

There does not seem to be any practical
means to compel a larger attendance upon
the public schools. In spite of the clause
in the constitution of the State empowering
the General Assembly to pass compulsory
school laws, such laws have never been
and are not likely to be enacted.

Mr. Buchanan declares in his report
that a system of compulsory laws would
not be acceptable to our people, and for this
reason, as well as others, their enforcement
would be difficult. It would be held that
they are an unwarrantable interference with
personal rights—the rights of parents in re-
gard to their children. But the right of the
State to establish a system of free schools
for the education of the people and to levy
a tax on the people for the support of such
a system, it may be very plausibly argued,
carries with it the right asserted by the
constitution, namely, to make such laws as
shall not permit parents and guardians to
allow their children to grow up in igno-
rance and vagrancy.

"Before the state can, with any show of
justice or propriety, assume to enact a com-
pulsory school law it must guarantee two
things; first, that the schools be sufficient
in number, and so located as to meet the
wants of all concerned; secondly, that the
schools be so organized and conducted as to
accomplish the true end of education.

Unreasonable, too, would be the require-
ment that a parent send his children to a
public school at all if he prefers to have them
taught at home or in a private school."

The weekly papers of Georgia are en-
thusiastic in their eulogies of the Atlanta
Constitution for its great work of adver-
tising the towns of that State. Some one
of the big dailies of Richmond should
undertake a similar work for the towns of
Virginia—Farmville Journal.

THE TIMES is doing just that very thing.
Read the following from the Baltimore
Manufacturer's Record of a recent date.
"One of the best pieces of
work ever done by a Virginia paper was an
industrial supplement issued last week by
the Richmond DAILY TIMES. That paper is
devoting much attention to the industrial
progress of the State, and in this supplement
it covered the new industrial movements
of almost every town in Virginia, now showing
any special development. It will prove
of great value to the whole State.

The TIMES is wisely taking the lead of Vir-
ginia in working for industrial progress,
and every man interested in the prosperity
of the State should give encouragement to
THE TIMES for the good that it is doing."

Two projects are before the people of Vir-
ginia—the Lee monument and the Davis
memorial window. Funds for both of these
are incomplete. This should not be. Let
us all attend to the matter at once, and
raise the few hundred dollars necessary to
make final payments.

THE STATE, Richmond's only afternoon
paper, celebrated yesterday its fourteenth
birthday. THE TIMES congratulates Col-
onel Beirne and his associates, and extends
the best wishes for the future of the paper.

The editor of the Henderson, N. C., Tom-
hawk is named A. Hatchett. Mr. Hatchett,
with his Tomhawk, is carving on a
worthy monument to himself.

The New Tariff Bill.
(Boston Times.)

The Republican members of the Commit-
tee on Ways and Means have completed the
New Tariff bill, after much investigation
and careful weighing of conflicting inter-
ests. On a great number of points the mem-
bers were agreed, and, in fact, com-
pletely concurred with it, except that the
Republicans will unconditionally sustain it
in the House. The bill has for its basis the one adopted by the Senate
at the last session, but in many essential
points appears to be improved upon. Further
examination may justify modifications, but in
nearly all essential features the wishes
and expectations of those who elected a Re-
publican President and a Republican major-
ity in the election are realized.

This valuable and interesting report con-
tains many other points of importance
which we have not the space to refer to in
the present article.

EMPEROR WILLIAM.

(Boston Journal.)

It is not surprising that a feeling of ur-
gent necessity should prevail in Continental
Europe with reference to the probable con-
sequences of the withdrawal of Bismarck
from an active participation in the future
course of the German Government. If this
withdrawal had been entirely voluntary on
the part of the late Chancellor, the charac-
ter of the situation would be essentially
different. It would then have been recog-
nized that though nominally retired into
private life, the Prince would still have
been for all important purposes, as much in
control of public affairs, as if he still occu-
pied in fact his old position. As it is, while
no one doubts that in an emergency, he
would come forward and give the Emperor
the benefit of his experience and the weight

of his great name, yet it is highly impos-
sible that he will henceforth exercise any
marked influence upon the general course
of the national affairs of Germany.

It is in this general current, however, that
the dangers of the future are most likely to
lurk. Here may arise causes of disagree-
ment and dissension which might easily be
removed in the beginning, by calm and judi-
cious management, but which otherwise
treated, might lead to the most disastrous
consequences.

It angers ill for the peaceful course of
events in the future that Bismarck is to be
succeeded by a military officer who has
been in command of one of the corps of the
German army. All the tastes of the young
Emperor are essentially of a military char-
acter; at the very time that he is amus-
ing himself with labor conferences, he is also
actively engaged in drilling his
regiments and testing their efficiency and
alertness. The two roles of military Em-
peror and imperial reformer which he is now
playing, appear rather incompatible.

The prediction may be ventured that his
present spirit of liberality will not last for
very great length of time, for at heart the
German Kaiser is as much of an absolutist
as Bismarck himself, and the disagreement
between them had its origin in the desire of
each to rule unquestioned rather than in any
fundamental difference of views be-
tween the two.

What will be the final issue of the as-
sumption of the most untrammeled power
by the Emperor? It is not improbable that
his restless spirit and uneasy ambition may
upon the slightest pretext plunge half of
Continental Europe into war. The fate of
millions of people is now dependent upon
the caprices of a monarch whose character
does not give the highest assurance of self-
control, however weak he may be in his
patriotism, and however conscious of the
duties of the throne which he occupies.

CODOMORE MAURY.

The services of Mathew F. Maury to met-
eorology, navigation and geography are ad-
mitted by all who are capable of judging
properly their character to have been of al-
most inestimable value. There is no name in
the American history of these sciences that
is comparable with his in claims to the pre-eminent consider-
ation of men. Only

one government upon the civilized globe has
failed to express, in the most substantial
form, its grateful appreciation of the bene-
fits conferred upon all civilized nations by
the results of his scientific career, and that
government is our own, which so far has
permitted itself to be influenced in this con-
nection by motives totally unworthy of the
smallest degree of respect.

A bill has been recently introduced in the
United States Senate which provides that a
fitting monument shall be raised to the
memory of Maury, but this bill has not yet
been reported upon by the committee to which
it was referred. In the meanwhile many
Republican papers of the North have expressed
their opposition to the measure on the ground
that Maury was a "rebel," a character, by the
way, which he shared with Robert E. Lee,
Stonewall Jackson, Jefferson Davis, and
many others who were held in the highest
honor by all men whose opinion is entitled
to oblivion and disgrace before her to bear to
them an imprudent and unworthy be-
ing.

The Boston Advertiser, which is usually
conservative in its views, a few days ago
severely condemned the object of the bill as a
refection upon loyalty to the government in
its most trying hour. This attack has
called forth a very admirable letter from
Mr. Julius A. Palmer, Jr., published in the
Advertiser of Tuesday, in which the mem-
ory of Maury is warmly defended and his
claims to the gratitude of mankind forcibly
presented. Mr. Palmer is a prominent ship-
master of Boston, who, as he himself states,
has been benefited incalculably by the dis-
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